



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00712

Date of Publication 27 August 2012

Property Name	Oratory of the Fraternity of St. Joseph		
Address	Zuntier		
Town Name	Birgu	Toponym	Madonna of Damascus (Tal-Griegi)
Property Owner	Religious	Managing Body	-
Local Council	Birgu		
Guardianship Deed	-		

Period	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Architectural Artistic Historical	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Very High
Property Function	Religious	Conservation Area	-

Outline Description	Small, stone oratory.
Property Description	Known as Our Lady of Damascus (Tal-Griegi) because of a small chapel within the oratory itself. The parish priest of Birgu in 1554 agreed to leave at the disposal of the Greek community a church dedicated to St.Catherine, near St Lawrence cemetery. The Greeks had come to Malta with the Order from Rhodes. However by the end of the 17th century the Greek community at Birgu had ceased to exist. A new 'Damascena' church was built here on the site of the old one during the first decades of the 18th century. Its building was ready by 1722. Its main altar was thenceforth exclusively reserved for the Latin rite while the Greek rite could still be celebrated on the side altar which is part of the original church that remains. The oratory suffered great damage in the Second World War but was restored afterwards. It is situated very close to the parish church of St.Lawrence.

Scheduled by MEPA	No	Degree of Protection	-	G.N. No.	-	G.N. Date	-
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Recommended Bibliography	Scerri, John N., <i>Birgu</i> , Malta-Canada.com accessed 18 August 2012 < http://www.malta-canada.com/churches-chapels/Birgu.htm >
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Coordinates : Easting

56895

71788

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

